



[11443/160]

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Michael WHITMAN et al.
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For : SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING DEVICE
Group Art Unit : 3721
Examiner : Gloria Weeks
Confirmation No. : 2683

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date: Apr 17, 2006

Signature: Gloria Weeks

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated January 11, 2006, please amend the above-captioned application without prejudice as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.